

REMARKS

Claims 20-37 are pending in the application. Claims 20 and 30 are the only independent claims.

As noted by the Examiner in the Office Action of May 3, 2005, applicant's Amendment of February 4, 2005 did not specifically address (a) the Examiner's rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over published European patent application document No. EP 118,613 (Vohrer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,977,440 to Phillipi or (b) the Examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohrer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,332,160 to Ruskin.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of original claims 5-8, and concomitantly, the pending claims corresponding to original claims 5-8, namely, claims 26-29 and 34-37, for the reasons discussed by applicant in the Amendment of February 4, 2005. More specifically, claims 26-29 and 34-37 incorporate the subject matter of independent claims 20 and 30 and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons that claims 20 and 30 distinguish over the prior art.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the subject matter specifically recited in claims 5-8 for the following additional reasons.

With respect to the subject matter of claims 5, 6 (26, 27 and 34, 35): Vohrer relates to a hose having longitudinal portions with a thickness which is in several hose sections linearly increasing and in other areas constant. Phillipi discloses a composite brake hose having an inner layer of one color and an outer layer of another color to enable a user to notice wear more easily. However, the change in color of the present invention is not designed to facilitate perception of wear but rather to highlight the area where variation of thickness occurs and where the tube is to be cut. Thus, the change in color is not between the inner and outer layer but lengthwise along the axial extent of one

of the layers, that is, the outer layer that is visible from the outside, as recited in original claim 6.

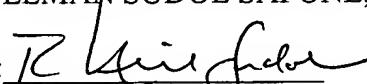
Neither Vohrer nor Phillippi suggests a change of color of an outer hose layer in correspondence to a variation in thickness of the longitudinal portions with predetermined extension to identify the area where the variation occurs and to assist the user in cutting the tube.

With respect to the subject matter of claims 7, 8 (28, 29 and 36, 37): Ruskin discloses a multilayer hose having an inner layer, an outer layer, and a cover layer which can be provided with a UV absorber to help shield against UV light. However, neither Phillippi nor Ruskin discloses or suggests a hose with an outer layer made from materials that are uniformly colored or striped to obtain a wide range of aesthetic, optical and visual effects.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

COLEMAN SUDOL SAPONE, P.C.

By: 
R. Neil Sudol
Reg. No. 31,669
714 Colorado Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 066-05-1601
(203) 366-3560

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